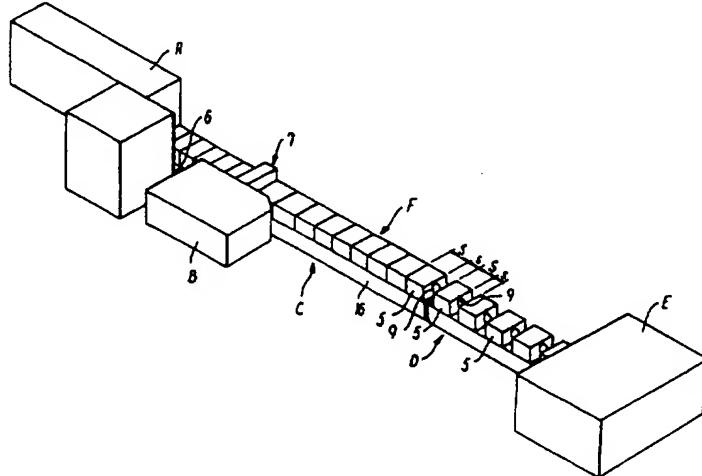




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :		A1	(11) International Publication Number:	WO 96/30140
B22C 11/10, B22D 33/00, B65G 47/30			(43) International Publication Date:	3 October 1996 (03.10.96)
(21) International Application Number:		PCT/DK96/00128		
(22) International Filing Date:		28 March 1996 (28.03.96)		
(30) Priority Data:		DK	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(30) Priority Data:		DK	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):		GEORG FISCHER DISA A/S [DK/DK]; Herlev Hovedgade 17, DK-2730 Herlev (DK).		
(72) Inventors; and				
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):		LARSEN, Jens, Peter [DK/DK]; Dalvangsvej 51.II.th., DK-2600 Glostrup (DK). JESPERSEN, Emil [DK/DK]; Rypevænget 2, DK-2600 Glostrup (DK).		
(74) Agent:		BUDDE, SCHOU & CO. A/S; Vestergade 31, DK-1456 København K (DK).		

(54) Title: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR CONVEYING MOULDS WITH CASTINGS THEREIN



## (57) Abstract

In a method of advancing moulds (5), after pouring to form castings (9) in the casting cavities (8), leaving a foundry plant comprising a mould-making station (A, 1-4) and a pouring station (B, 7), said moulds (5) leaving said stations in the form of closely juxtaposed mould parts (5) with the castings (9) in casting cavities (8) at the mainly vertical parting surfaces between successive moulds (5), the latter constituting a mould string (F), in which each mould (5) occupies a given length (S) in the longitudinal direction of the mould string (F), the latter after having passed a precision conveyor (6, 16) being transferred to a second conveyor (10, 16, D), the main novel feature is that each time said second conveyor (10) receives a mould (5) from the mould string (F), the second conveyor (10) is advanced in a controlled manner through a greater distance (S+s) than the length (S) of said individual mould (5) in the mould string (F), so as to produce an interspace (s) on the second conveyor (10) between consecutive moulds (5) along the mainly vertical parting surfaces.

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR CONVEYING MOULDS WITH CASTINGS  
THEREIN

5       TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a method for conveying moulds with castings therein, said method being of the kind set forth in the preamble of claim 1. The second conveyor referred to is normally of a relatively light construction.

15      BACKGROUND ART

When making castings by pouring moulds with vertical parting surfaces, the moulds will normally be advanced along the pouring track on a precision conveyor, e.g. of the kind described in the DK patent publications Nos. 119,373 and 127,494; in this manner, the moulds or mould parts are placed in mutual abutment in a highly accurate manner, and this accuracy is maintained during the steps of pouring and solidification. After the pouring step, the moulds may be transferred to a conveyor of the kind described in DK-patent publication No. 138,840, making it possible to reduce the total frictional resistance against the movement of the moulds.

For the reasons referred to above, the moulds are frequently transferred at a relatively early stage in the process from the precision conveyor to a second conveyor producing less frictional resistance than the precision conveyor. This second conveyor may possibly be constituted by an endless belt. During the transfer to the second

conveyor it must be ensured, either that the casting is sufficiently cooled to avoid the occurrence of cooling defects or deformations, or that the individual moulds are transferred in a manner preventing mutual displacements of the mould parts, possibly being the cause of deformations or cooling defects, respectively. Because of these relationships, the string of moulds will normally be transferred as a solid body through the second conveyor and advanced - still undivided - on the latter, until the castings have been cooled sufficiently, eventually to reach an extraction station.

An alternative to conveying the string of moulds as a continuous string to the extraction station is based on the use of devices to divide or break open the moulds in the mould string, e.g. of the kind shown in DK-B-129,397, in which such a device removes the central part of the moulds together with the castings. This alternative will, however, require the use of complicated equipment, the latter frequently having to be adapted to the particular castings being made and the particular moulds being used at any moment, especially when there is a change in the dimensions. Further, such an intermediate station will produce dust and fragments to be accounted for, as they can constitute a health risk and contribute to increased wear on moving parts.

Normally, however, the string of moulds will be advanced in the form of a continuous string on the second conveyor until the castings are cooled sufficiently for the extraction step. Further, if the second conveyor consists of flexible material incapable of withstanding high temperatures, such as e.g. is the case with endless belts of rubber or plastic material, it must be ensured, either

that the castings do not come into contact with the conveyor belt during the extraction, or that the castings are cooled to a temperature not causing damage to the conveyor belt, the latter temperature frequently lying 5 far below the temperature of solidification of the castings, thus requiring a disproportionately long cooling time on the conveyor belt.

10 A previously known automatic casting machine of the kind referred to above operates in the following manner. The moulds or mould parts are produced in a mould-making station, from which they are conveyed in the form of a closely packed string of moulds by a precision conveyor along a track to a pouring station, in which liquid casting material is poured into the casting cavities formed 15 between the closely juxtaposed moulds or mould parts. After the pouring, the moulds or mould parts, now containing the casting material having been poured into them, are advanced, still in the form of a continuous 20 string, along the casting track, during which the cooling is initiated in a cooling section. During this cooling it is important to prevent the moulds in the string of moulds from being displaced relative to each other, as this could otherwise result in deformations or cooling 25 defects in the castings before the latter have been cooled to a shape-retaining temperature. For this reason, the length of the cooling section of the precision conveyor is often made sufficient to ensure that the castings are sufficiently cooled to be separated from the moulds in an 30 extraction station. Especially when producing large castings, it becomes difficult to use long precision conveyors, because increased sand adhesion, produced by condensed moisture from the moulds, make the latter "stick" to the conveyor. In order to eliminate the effect

of the sand adhesion, some plants are provided with a divided cooling section, in which the string of moulds is transferred to a driven conventional conveyor being synchronized with the precision conveying of the string 5 of moulds, so that the latter is advanced without substantial displacement between the moulds occurring. When the cooling takes place in a continuous string of moulds, the cooling section may, however, become very long, especially when producing large castings, because the moulds 10 act as heat insulation. For this reason, the prior art has comprised attempts to shorten the cooling time by during the cooling step removing parts of the moulds or extracting the castings with a surrounding part of the moulds. This will, however, frequently require specially 15 constructed apparatus adapted to the particular castings being made, and is also likely to produce large quantities of dust.

Thus, the purpose of the previously known second conveyor 20 placed in extension of a precision conveyor has predominantly been to reduce the sand adhesion on the precision conveyor, and this has - to the extent that cooling is also provided during the movement on a conventional conveyor - resulted in relatively long conveying distances 25 and cooling times, possibly also a relatively large quantity of "burnt-out" binder in the mould material. Further, it has been necessary to use relatively complicated extraction stations, especially when it is necessary to prevent the castings from coming into contact with a flexible conveyor belt. These extraction stations normally 30 produce a considerable amount of powder and dust from crushed mould parts, that should be avoided.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is the object of the present invention to provide a method of the kind referred to initially, with which the disadvantages referred to above can be avoided or considerably reduced, and according to the invention, this object is achieved by proceeding in the manner set forth in the characterizing clause of claim 1. By proceeding in this manner, it is possible by using simple means to shorten the cooling time and/or extract the castings, while simultaneously avoiding the disadvantages referred to.

The present invention also relates to an arrangement for carrying out the method of the invention. This arrangement is of the kind set forth in the preamble of claim 7, and, according to the present invention, it also exhibits the features set forth in the characterizing clause of this claim 7.

Thus, the present invention provides a number of advantages based upon the use of simple means. The cooling is intensified, and it may be controlled by increasing the surface of the individual moulds and allowing air to come into contact with the castings, made possible by the mutual separation of the moulds in the string of moulds. This also makes it possible to reduce the quantity of "burnt-out" sand in the mould, as the cooling of the moulds themselves is also intensified. Since it is only the distance, through which the second conveyor moves for each transfer step or cycle, that will possibly be altered when changing the size of the mould or casting, an adaptation to different castings will also be very simple. The invention is especially suitable for use

when the temperature, to which the castings are to be cooled, depends on other parameters than the solidification temperature; this may be the case, when the castings at the solidification temperature still have a temperature capable of causing damage to other parts, such as a conveyor belt of a material not capable of withstanding high temperature, because the invention provides the possibility of opening the moulds and at the same time use them as heat insulation relative to the surrounding parts, such as the conveyor belt.

Further, the present invention provides the possibility of extracting the castings using simple means, since it is possible for a gripping device to engage the castings through the opening between the moulds without the necessity of breaking or destroying the latter. This makes it possible to simplify the construction of the extraction station and to reduce the production of dust. Alternatively, the invention makes it possible to use conveyors not specially constructed with a view to precision and temperature resistance, thus simplifying the construction.

By proceeding in the manner set forth in claim 2 it is possible to achieve a controlled cooling in a number of steps.

By proceeding in the manner set forth in claim 3, the mould having been overturned will protect the conveyor belt against unintentional heating. This is especially of advantage during the extraction step, such as set forth in claim 6.

The method of the invention may advantageously be carried

out with an arrangement of the kind set forth in claim 7, thus using one second conveyor.

As set forth in claim 8, the conveyor may advantageously 5 be constituted by a conveyor belt.

When, further, this conveyor belt is provided with a sideboard or side rail, such as set forth in claim 9, the quantity of mould parts and other impurities escaping 10 from the conveyor belt will be reduced.

If, further, the belt is provided with spaced abutments in the manner set forth in claim 10, one of the effects achieved is that the conveyor belt itself can synchronize 15 its movement to that of the string of moulds.

With the arrangement set forth in claim 11, it is possible to extract the castings in a simple manner.

20

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the following detailed portion of the present description, the invention will be explained in more detail 25 with reference to the exemplary embodiments shown in the drawing, in which

Figure 1 diagrammatically and in perspective shows a part of a foundry plant embodying the invention,

Figure 2 shows the operating principle for a previously 30 known automatic mould-making machine,

Figure 3 shows how the string of moulds is separated into individual moulds with interspaces as provided by the present invention,

Figure 4 shows castings being extracted from the moulds

according to the invention, and  
Figure 5 shows how the moulds are separated from the  
string of moulds on a conveyor belt with spaced abutments  
and sideboards or side rails, during which step the moulds  
5 are overturned according to the present invention.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

10 Figure 1 shows an automatic foundry plant according to  
the present invention. Before being poured, the moulds  
are produced in a mould-making station A. The moulds 5  
having been made are then transferred in the form of a  
closely packed string of moulds F on a precision conveyor  
15 6 to the pouring station B,7, in which casting material  
is poured into the casting cavities formed between the  
closely packed moulds. After having been poured, the  
moulds with the castings are conveyed further on the  
precision conveyor 6, and during this part of the process,  
20 the cooling is initiated in a first cooling section C.  
During this cooling it is important that the moulds 5 in  
the string of moulds F are not moved relative to each  
other, as such movement may cause deformations or cooling  
defects in the castings 9 before the latter have been  
25 cooled to a temperature, at which they are stable with  
regard to shape. For this reason, the first cooling sec-  
tion C of the precision conveyor 6 is of a sufficient  
length to ensure that the castings 9 are sufficiently  
cooled to make them stable with regard to shape. Espec-  
30 ially when producing large castings, the length of the  
conveyor can, however, reach such a magnitude that water  
evaporating in the moulds having been poured condenses  
near the surface of the mould and causes adhesion of  
sand, thus preventing precision conveying. To reduce the

influence of the sand adhesion occurring as a result of the condensation of water, the plant may be provided with a divided cooling run, in which the string of moulds F passes onto a conveyor that is synchronized with the precision advancement of the string of moulds, so that the latter is moved forward without substantial relative movement between the moulds 5 occurring.

This process will now be explained in more detail with reference to Figure 2. Casting-mould parts in the form of moulds 5 consisting of mould sand or the like may be produced in a manner known per se by, as shown in Figure 2a, introducing a suitable quantity of mould sand into the mould chamber 1 through a hopper 4, after which squeeze plates 2,3 are moved towards each other, causing the mould sand in the mould chamber 1 to be compacted so as to form the desired mould 5. The parts 1-4 are parts in the mould-making station A shown in Figure 1.

When, as shown in Figure 2, the mould 5 has been formed, the squeeze plate 3 is pivoted away from the mould chamber 1 and the latter's bottom 6 as shown in Figure 2c. After this, the squeeze plate 2 is advanced further with the mould 5 along the bottom 6, the latter continuing as the precision conveyor 6, so that the squeeze plate 2 moves the mould 5 forward into abutment with the previously formed mould 5 in the string of moulds 5 consisting of moulds 5 abutting against each other and now also comprising the most recently formed mould 5. After this, the squeeze plate 2 and the precision conveyor 6 move the string of moulds F one step further forward. Then, the squeeze plate 2 is withdrawn to its initial position, and the squeeze plate 3 is pivoted downwardly to its initial position, after which the process can be repeated.

Thus, the string of moulds F will be pushed forward step by step to the pouring region 7 (at the pouring station B in Figure 1), in which casting material is poured into 5 the casting cavities 8 formed between the moulds 5 so as to produce the desired castings 9. After the pouring, the precision conveyor 6 advances the moulds 5 with the castings 9 step by step in the form of an undivided string of moulds F, and during this movement, the cooling of 10 the castings 9 is initiated in the first cooling section C shown in Figure 1. Firstly, this cooling occurs by heat energy being transferred to the material in the moulds 5, after which the heat is conducted through this material and dissipated from its surfaces. During this 15 conduction of heat after the immediate heating, the mould sand acts as heat insulation relative to the castings 9.

The string of moulds F continues on the precision conveyor 6 until it is transferred to the next conveying 20 run. The succeeding conveying run may constitute an extension of the precision conveyor 6 and may be constructed and driven in such a manner that the moulds 5 will not be displaced relative to the string of moulds F, e.g. in the manner disclosed in DK-B-138,840, disclosing a conveyor belt being stabilized by rod-shaped means in engagement about the edges of the conveyor belt and accompanying the latter on a part of the conveying distance, thus preventing the moulds being opened by displacements relative to or in the belt. 25

30

After having passed along the precision conveyor 6,16 and its extension 16, if present, the unbroken string of moulds F will arrive at an end region of the precision conveyor 6,16 or the latter's extension 16 as shown in

Figure 3 constituting the terminal part of the first cooling section C as shown in Figure 1.

According to the present invention, the moulds 5 with the castings 9 are transferred from the first cooling section C to the second cooling section D, the latter being a conveyor, shown in Figure 3 in the form of a conveyor belt 10, that for each mould 5 being transferred is advanced through a greater distance  $S+s$  than the length S of the mould 5 previously having been transferred and entered into the string of moulds F, so that the latter is divided up with interspaces s between the moulds 5 along the latters' parting surfaces in the manner shown in Figures 1 and 3.

15

This means that the speed of the conveyor belt 10 as differentiated through a complete cycle of duration T is greater than the speed of the string of moulds F:  $(S+s)/T > S/T$ , because  $s > 0$ .

20

The transfer as such may take place with uniform synchronized speed as between the string of moulds F and the conveyor belt 10, after which the string of moulds F stops while the conveyor belt 10 continues to advance e.g. 5-25 mm and then stops. With this cause of events, the continuous string of moulds F will be separated into individual moulds 5 with interspaces s adjusted to a desired magnitude, e.g. an interspace s of 5-25 mm.

25

30 This interspace s can contribute to augmenting the cooling effect by increasing the surface area of the moulds 5 and by creating direct access to the castings. The cooling effect may be adjusted by varying the size of the inter-space s, and it may possibly be adjusted a number of

times with transfer to a new conveyor, during which the distance  $s$  is further increased by an increment  $s_x$  to a greater distance  $s+s_x$ .

5 Further, Figure 4 shows the extraction of the castings 9, these being extracted mechanically at an extraction station 11 (in Figure 1 being designated E), in which a gripping device engages the castings 9 through the inter-spaces  $s, s_x$  between the moulds 5. This is a relatively  
10 simple operation, as it is not necessary for the gripping devices 12 to break open the moulds 5 in order to be able to engage the castings 9.

15 The extraction station 11 may comprise a machine or a robot situated in a suitable extraction location. The extraction station may comprise detectors for detecting the openings  $s, s_x$  between the moulds 5 and/or the castings 9 by mechanical sensing, photocells, ultrasound, inductive sensors or the like. The extraction of the castings 9 from the moulds 5 may be carried out by the mould 5 embracing the casting 9 and being forwardmost in the direction of movement of the moulds being overturned in the forward direction by advancing the gripping device 12 in the extraction station 11 after having gripped the casting,  
20 after which the latter is moved away from the conveyor belt 10. It is also possible to carry out the extraction by lifting the castings 9 up through the moulds 5, thus breaking open the upper part of the moulds 5. What these methods of extraction have in common is that  
25 they are simple to carry out and produce a small quantity of dust, because the moulds 5 are not subjected to a crushing operation during the introduction of gripping devices in the mould itself, such as is otherwise normal  
30 in extraction stations.

- An especially advantageous extraction is achieved by letting the gripping device 12 engage the castings 9 upstream of the end of the top run of the conveyor belt 10 and follow the latter's movement, the forwardmost mould 5 falling off the conveyor belt 10 at the end of the top run, after which the casting 9 is removed from the succeeding mould 5.
- 5        10      This type of extraction makes it possible to transfer the mould 5 being overturned from the conveyor belt directly to a collecting space without any previous crushing or breaking up taking place, thus avoiding the creation of dust.
- 15        If the moulds 5 have such a shape that the castings 5 may be supported by one of them, the moulds can be moved with a relatively large mutual distance, thus improving the cooling and making it possible, if desired, to overturn the mould as shown in Figure 5. When the mould 5 has been overturned, the conveyor belt 10 is protected against the influence of heat from the casting 9, because the mould 5 acts as heat insulation. Further, the mould 5 protects the conveyor belt 10 against hot falling parts 20        25      from the castings 9 and hot particles coming loose in the region of the casting cavity in the mould 5, such as otherwise could especially constitute a problem during the extraction at the extraction station 11.
- 30        As shown and described, the conveyor 10 may be constituted by a conveyor belt, but it may also be constructed differently, e.g. in the form of a "travelling grate".

In the embodiment shown it is advantageous if the conveyor

belt 10 is provided with sideboards or side rails, preferably having corrugations, causing mould parts or pieces from the moulds 5 to remain on the conveyor belt 10 to be collected at the downstream end.

5

The conveyor belt 10 may also be provided with spaced abutments 13 as indicated in Figure 5, so that the string of moulds F will push the conveyor belt forward through a given distance when a mould 5 is being pushed onto the 10 conveyor belt 10, as the forwardmost mould 5 in the string F will be advanced together with the latter until it engages an abutment 13, after which the conveyor belt 10 will be moved forward by the string F, and then, when the latter stops, the conveyor belt 10 continues to advance until a new abutment 13 is brought into position 15 in front of the string of moulds F. E.g. in the beginning of the cycle time T, the speed of the string F may be greater than the speed of the conveyor belt 10, but differentiated over the complete cycle time T, the speed is 20 greatest for the conveyor belt. These spaced abutments 13 may possibly be constructed and arranged in such a manner that their position may be altered according to the desired interspace between the moulds 5 and the size of the latter. The conveyor belt 10 itself may be arranged 25 to be run freely or to be driven, the latter alternative comprising a partial drive for overcoming part of the frictional resistance, e.g. with a constantly acting advancing force corresponding to 90% of what is needed to advance the conveyor belt 10, thus relieving the string 30 of moulds F, as during this part of the movement it is not subjected to the friction of the precision conveyor 6 and is only required to provide 10% of the requisite force for advancing the conveyor belt 10.

LIST OF PARTS

	A	mould-making station
	B	pouring station
5	C	first cooling section
	D	second cooling section
	E	extraction station
	F	string of moulds
	S	length
10	S+s	distance
	s	interspace
	1	mould chamber
	2	squeeze plate
	3	squeeze plate
15	4	hopper
	5	mould
	6(,16)	precision conveyor/bottom
	7	pouring region
	8	casting cavity
20	9	casting(s)
	10	conveyor belt
	11	extraction station
	12	gripping device
	13	spaced abutments
25	14	sideboard
	16	extension.

C L A I M S :

1. A method of advancing moulds (5), after pouring to form castings (9) in the casting cavities (8) leaving a foundry plant comprising a mould-making station (A,1-4) and a pouring station (B,7), said moulds (5) leaving said stations in the form of closely juxtaposed mould parts (5) with the castings (9) in casting cavities (8) at the mainly vertical parting surfaces between successive moulds (5), the latter constituting a mould string (F), in which each mould (5) occupies a given length (S) in the longitudinal direction of the mould string (F), the latter after having passed a precision conveyor (6,16) being transferred to a second conveyor (10,16,D), characterized in that each time said second conveyor (10) receives a mould (5) from the mould string (F), the second conveyor (10) is advanced in a controlled manner through a greater distance ( $S+s$ ) than the length (S) of said individual mould (5) in the mould string (F), so as to produce an interspace (s) on the second conveyor (10) between consecutive moulds (5) along the mainly vertical parting surfaces.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized by the use of at least one further conveyor (10) downstream of said second conveyor (10), said further conveyor (10) during the transfer of a mould (5) from the preceding conveyor (10) being advanced through a greater distance ( $S+s+sx$ ) than the preceding conveyor, so that the interspace ( $s+sx$ ) between the successive moulds (5) is increased relative to the interspace (s) between the successive moulds on the preceding conveyor.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized

terized in that the moulds (5) with the castings (9) are overturned at a moment in time later than the moment in time, in which an interspace (s,sx) has been created between the moulds (5).

5

4. Method according to any one or any of the claims 1-3, characterized by the use of a second conveyor (10) in the form of a freely running conveyor, so that the force for advancing the conveyor is at least in part supplied by the mould string (F) during the forward movement of the latter.

10 5. Method according to any one or any of the claims 1-4, characterized in that the second conveyor (10) is driven by means of an applied force, at least partially constituting the requisite advancing force.

20 6. Method according to any one or any of the claims 1-5, characterized in that the castings (9) are gripped at surfaces having been laid bare and not being embraced by the mould (5), and then removed from the second conveyor (10).

25 7. Arrangement for carrying out the method according to claims 1-6 and of the kind comprising a precision conveyor (6) for conveying mould parts (5), after having been poured to form castings (9) in the casting cavities (8) leaving a casting machine in the form of closely juxtaposed mould parts in the form of moulds (5) having casting cavities (8) at the mainly vertical parting surfaces between successive moulds (5) constituting a mould string (F), said arrangement comprising a second conveyor (10,16,D), to which the moulds (5) are transferred after

having been discharged from said precision conveyor (6) or the latter's extension (16), characterized in that the second conveyor (10) receiving moulds (5) is adapted, controlled and/or driven in such a manner,  
5 that each time it receives a mould (5) with a casting (9), it is advanced in a controlled manner through a distance ( $S+s, S+s+sx$ ) greater than the longitudinal space ( $S, S+s$ ) previously occupied by the mould (5) relative to a succeeding mould part (5), so that on the second conveyor (10), a relative displacement ( $s, s+sx$ ) between the individual moulds (5) in a direction away from each other takes place, said displacement mainly being produced at the mainly vertical parting surfaces.

15 8. Arrangement according to claim 7, characterized in that said second conveyor (10) is constituted by a conveyor belt (10), especially an endless, flexible conveyor belt (10).

20 9. Arrangement according to claim 8, characterized in that said second conveyor (10) is provided with at least one sideboard or side rail (14), especially in the form of a corrugated sideboard or side rail.

25 10. Arrangement according to any one or any of the claims 7-9, characterized in that said second conveyor (10) is provided with spaced abutments (13), preferably being adjustable in position.

30 11. Arrangement according to any one or any of the claims 7-10, characterized by an extraction station (11) having a gripping device (12) adapted to engage the castings (9) at the surfaces of the latter

having been laid bare.

1 / 4

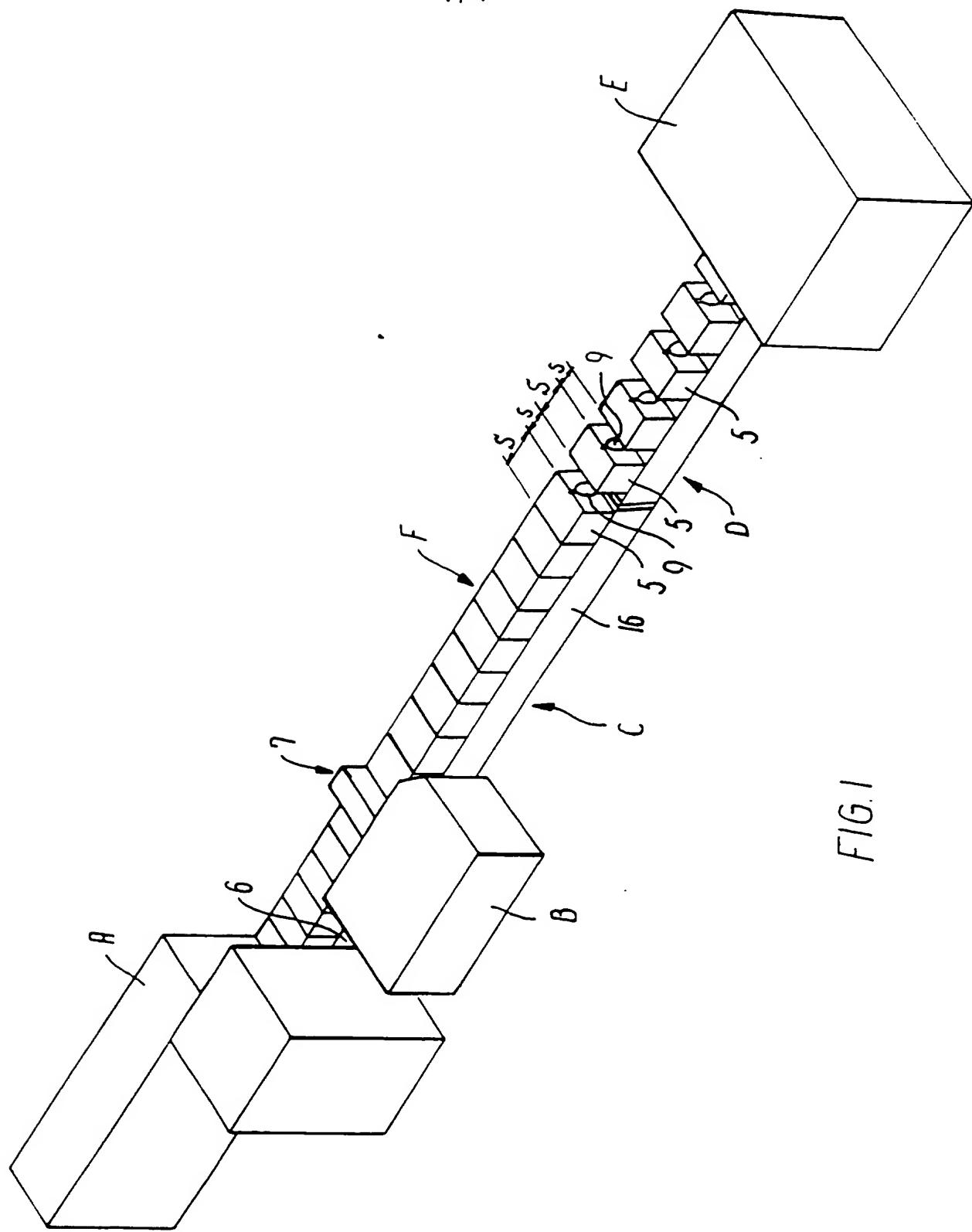


FIG. I

2/4

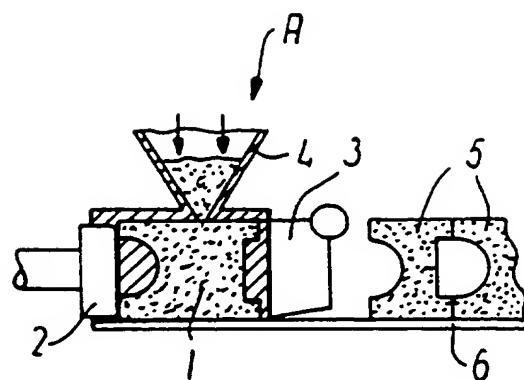


FIG. 2a

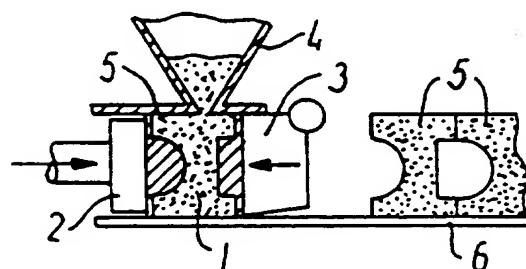


FIG. 2b

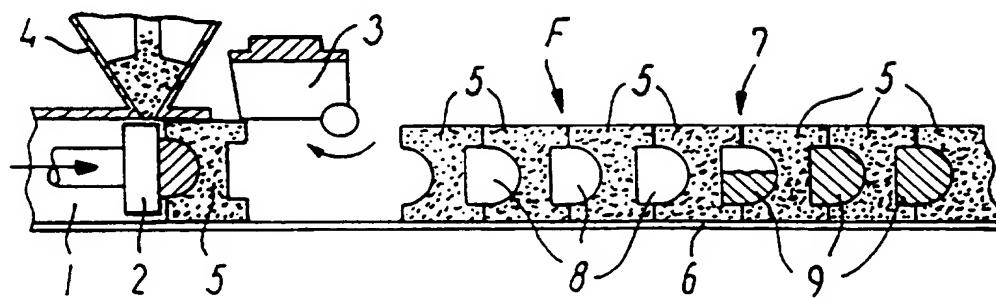


FIG. 2c

3/4

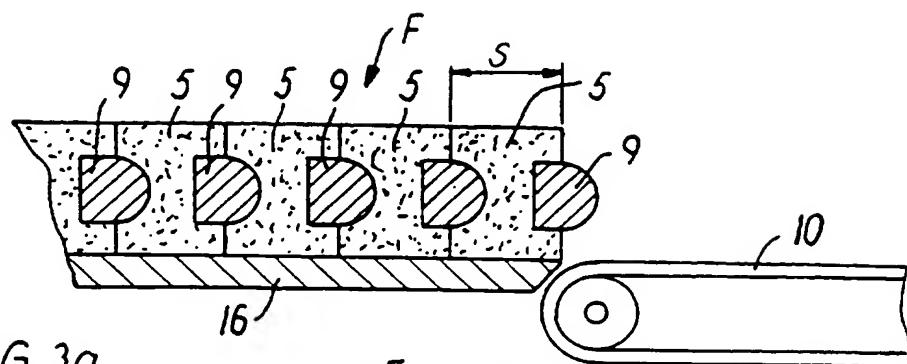


FIG. 3a

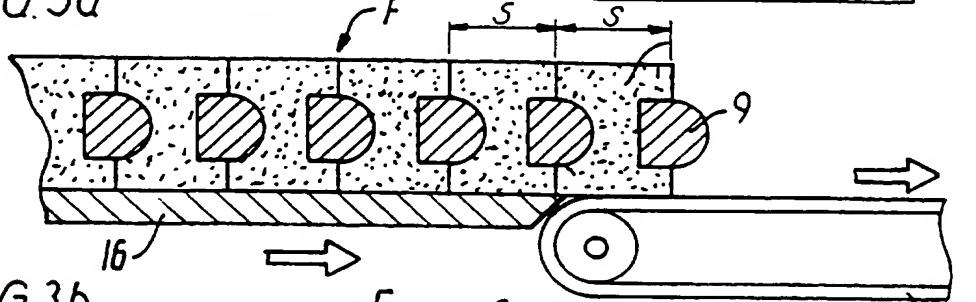


FIG. 3b

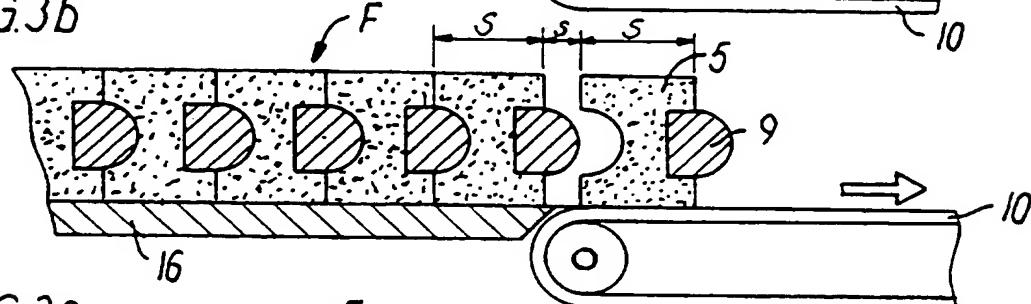


FIG. 3c

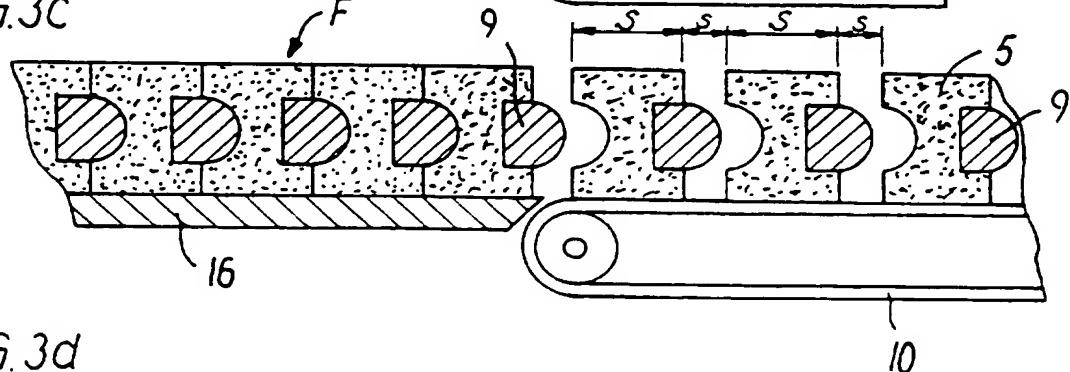


FIG. 3d

4/4

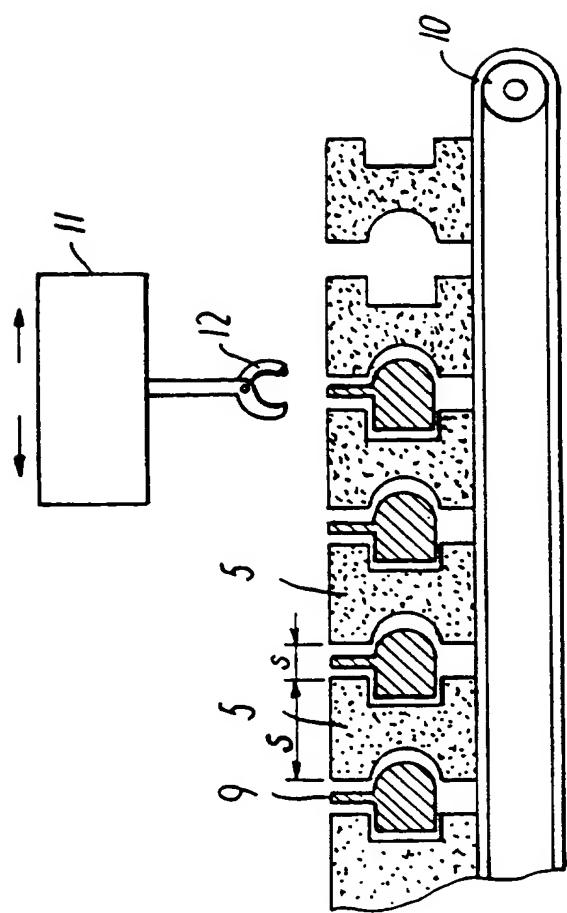


FIG. 4

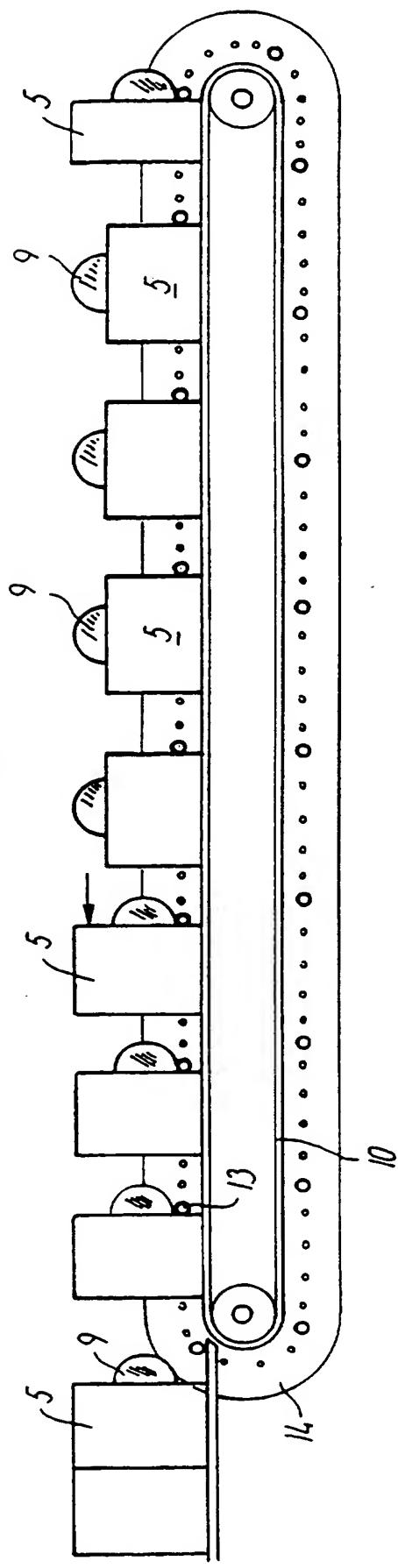


FIG. 5

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

1

International application No.

PCT/DK 96/00128

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: B22C 11/10, B22D 33/00, B65G 47/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: B22C, B22D, F27B, F27D, B65G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## WPI, CLAIMS

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DE 2404907 B2 (DANSK INDUSTRI SYNDIKAT A/S), 26 February 1976 (26.02.76), figures 1,4 --	1,4-9,11
Y	EP 0385245 A2 (HITECH SYSTEMS S.R.L.), 5 Sept 1990 (05.09.90), figure 3, abstract --	1,4-9,11
A	JP 62171816 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 28 July 1987 (28.07.87), figures 1,3 --	1-11
A	EP 0013062 A1 (THE OSBORN MANUFACTURING CORPORATION), 9 July 1980 (09.07.80), figures 18, 19, claim 1 --	1-11

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

- \* Special categories of cited documents:
- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 July 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 -07- 1996

Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Swedish Patent Office  
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM  
Facsimile No. + 46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Mårten Hulthén  
Telephone No. + 46 8 782 25 00

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

2

International application No.

PCT/DK 96/00128

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 4034405 A1 (DANSK INDUSTRI SYNDIKAT A/S), 2 May 1991 (02.05.91), column 4, line 31 - line 34, figures 1,3  --	1-11
A	US 4846251 A (MICHAEL ACHINGER), 11 July 1989 (11.07.89), figures 1,3  -- -----	1-11

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

01/04/96

International application No.	
PCT/DK 96/00128	

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE-B2- 2404907	26/02/76	BE-A,A-	810380	16/05/74
		CA-A-	997531	28/09/76
		CH-A-	568116	31/10/75
		FR-A,B-	2216044	30/08/74
		GB-A-	1436985	26/05/76
		JP-C-	882152	13/09/77
		JP-A-	49111827	24/10/74
		JP-B-	52011939	04/04/77
		NL-A-	7401560	08/08/74
		SE-B,C-	389457	08/11/76
		SU-A,A-	1007552	23/03/83
		US-A-	3958619	25/05/76
		US-A-	4082135	04/04/78
EP-A2- 0385245	05/09/90	DE-D,T-	69004997	05/05/94
		US-A-	5038915	13/08/91
JP-A- 62171816	28/07/87	NONE		
EP-A1- 0013062	09/07/80	CA-A-	1141935	01/03/83
		JP-A-	55050955	14/04/80
		US-A-	4261413	14/04/81
DE-A1- 4034405	02/05/91	JP-A-	3177218	01/08/91
US-A- 4846251	11/07/89	DE-A,A,C	3416019	13/06/85
		EP-A,A,B	0224477	10/06/87
		WO-A,A-	8607293	18/12/86